

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 11, 16, 19, 20, 23 and 26. The status of the claims is as follows:

1-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A pneumatic tire comprising:

a plurality of grooves formed on a tread portion, the grooves each having at least one sidewall inclined with respect to the tire circumferential direction and extending at one angle to connect the tread portion with a bottom of the groove; and

a plurality of blocks divided by the grooves, wherein

a ratio of a block facing length c to a width b of the grooves c/b is in a range of $0.50 \leq c/b \leq 1.30$, wherein the block facing length c is obtained by selecting a pair of blocks adjacent to each other across a groove from a plan view of the tread portion, drawing perpendicular lines from two vertices of one block on a side of a sandwiched groove to other block across the sandwiched groove, respectively, connecting ends of the perpendicular lines on the one block by a first line segment along an outer circumference of the one block, connecting ends of the perpendicular lines on the other block by a second line segment along an outer circumference of the other block, and comparing lengths of the first and second line segments, the block facing length c being shorter one of the first and second line segments.

12. (Previously Presented) The pneumatic tire according to claim 11, wherein
the ratio of the block facing length c to the width b of the groove c/b is in a range of $1.00 \leq c/b \leq 1.30$.

13. (Previously Presented) The pneumatic tire according to claim 11, wherein
a ratio of the block facing length c to a depth a of the groove c/a is in a range of $0.40 \leq c/a \leq 0.85$.

14. (Previously Presented) The pneumatic tire according to claim 13, wherein
the ratio of the block facing length c to the depth a of the groove c/a is in a range of $0.60 \leq c/a \leq 0.80$.

15. (Previously Presented) The pneumatic tire according to claim 11, further comprising:
at least three lines of a block array formed with a plurality of the blocks arranged in a tire circumferential direction.

16. (Currently Amended) The pneumatic tire according to claim

11, wherein

~~the groove includes an inclined groove that is inclined with respect to a tire circumferential direction, and~~

a substantially net-shaped tread pattern is formed on the tread portion.

17. (Previously Presented) The pneumatic tire according to claim

16, wherein

an angle of inclination of the inclined groove is in a range between 30 degrees and 60 degrees.

18. (Previously Presented) The pneumatic tire according to claim

11, wherein

a ratio of a depth a and the width b of the groove b/a is in a range of $0.6 \leq b/a \leq 0.8$.

19. (Currently Amended) The pneumatic tire according to claim

11, wherein

a protrusion for suppressing a foreign-object drilling is formed in ~~a~~ the
bottom of the groove.

20. (Currently Amended) A pneumatic tire comprising:

a plurality of grooves formed on a tread portion, the grooves each having at least one sidewall inclined with respect to the tire circumferential direction and extending at one angle to connect the tread portion with a bottom of the groove; and

a plurality of blocks divided by the grooves, wherein

a ratio of a block facing length c to a depth a of the grooves c/a is in a range of $0.40 \leq c/a \leq 0.85$, wherein the block facing length c is obtained by selecting a pair of blocks adjacent to each other across a groove from a plan view of the tread portion, drawing perpendicular lines from two vertices of one block on a side of a sandwiched groove to other block across the sandwiched groove, connecting ends of the perpendicular lines on the one block by a first line segment along an outer circumference of the one block, connecting ends of the perpendicular lines on the other block by a second line segment along an outer circumference of the other block, and comparing lengths of the first and second line segments, the block facing length c being shorter one of the first and second line segments.

21. (Previously Presented) The pneumatic tire according to claim
20, wherein

the ratio of the block facing length c to the depth a of the groove c/a is in a range of $0.60 \leq c/a \leq 0.80$.

22. (Previously Presented) The pneumatic tire according to claim 20, further comprising:

at least three lines of a block array formed with a plurality of the blocks arranged in a tire circumferential direction.

23. (Currently Amended) The pneumatic tire according to claim 20, wherein

~~the groove includes an inclined groove that is inclined with respect to a tire circumferential direction, and~~

a substantially net-shaped tread pattern is formed on the tread portion.

24. (Previously Presented) The pneumatic tire according to claim 23, wherein

an angle of inclination of the inclined groove is in a range between 30 degrees and 60 degrees.

25. (Previously Presented) The pneumatic tire according to claim 20, wherein
a ratio of the depth a and a width b of the groove b/a is in a range of
 $0.6 \leq b/a \leq 0.8$.

26. (Currently Amended) The pneumatic tire according to claim 20, wherein
a protrusion for suppressing a foreign-object drilling is formed in ~~a~~ the bottom
of the groove.